TB patients

761. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people in the country affected by TB;

(b) the steps taken by Government to check/eradicate this disease;

(c) the causes for the spread of this disease; and

(d) the number of human lives lost because of TB annually during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) It is estimated that about 22 lac new TB cases are occurring every year in the country.

(b) To control the disease, National TB Control Programme is in operation in the country since 1962. This could not achieve the desired results. Therefore, Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) widely known as DOTS, which is a WHO recommended strategy, is being implemented in a phased manner, with the objective of achieving cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases. Diagnosis by sputum microscopy instead of by X-ray helps in detecting and curing infectious cases on priority. Facilities for diagnosis by sputum microscopy have been decentralized and strengthened. Drugs are provided under observation and patients are monitored so that they complete their treatment. Drugs are provided free of cost in patient-wise boxes.

The project districts have reported a cure rate of more than 80% which means more than 8 out of every 10 patients diagnosed and put on treatment under revised strategy are successfully treated. This is double that of the earlier programme.

To make the programme more accessible to larger segments of the population, and to supplement the Government efforts in this directions, emphasis is being given to also involve medical colleges, all general hospitals, private practitioners and NGOs in the programme.

DOTS coverage is being rapidly expanded in the country. From 20 million coverage in 1998, about 700 million population has been covered at present. It is envisaged to cover 850 million population by 2004 under

the revised strategy and the entire population of the country by 2005.

(c) TB is an infectious disease. It spreads through air and gets transmitted by inhalation of infected droplet nuclei which are discharged in the air when untreated sputum positive TB patient coughs or sneezes. Other contributory factors are poor housing conditions, overcrowding, illiteracy, under nutrition, lack of awareness of cause of illness among TB patients etc. All these factors are interrelated and contribute to the occurrence and spread of Tuberculosis.

(d) Deaths are not reported under the National TB Control Programme. It is estimated that about 4.5 lac patients die of TB every year in the country. Under Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), the deaths due to TB reported during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise number of deaths among TB patients under RNTCP during last 3 years

State	Years		
	1999	2000	2001
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	232	232	950
Assam	22	97	58
Bihar	94	159	164
Delhi	656	477	335
Gujarat	732	1896	1606
Haryana	—	216	196
Himachal Pradesh	178	238	256
Jharkhand	—	25	85
Karnataka	109	308	920
Kerala	411	684	877
Madhya Pradesh	134	188	166
Maharashtra	1261	1257	2093
Manipur	57	65	50

1	2	3	4
Orissa	460	479	557
Punjab	—	—	26
Rajasthan	367	1762	2052
Tamil Nadu	234	618	1997
Uttar Pradesh	248	632	670
West Bengal	663	1004	1973
TOTAL	5858	10337	15031

The proportion of number of patients put on treatment under RNTCP and the TB deaths occurring has been same, but the absolute number has increased due to increased coverage of population under RNTCP.

Hypertension among children

762. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the alarmingly high rate of hypertension the children in Delhi have;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the preventive and curative steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) According to ICMR, New Delhi a published epidemiological study of blood pressure in school children (5-14 years) in Delhi conducted by Sitaram Bhartiya Institute of Science and Research, New Delhi the prevalence of Hypertension (systolic, diastolic or both) among school children was around 12% in boys and 11.4% in girls. The study covered both Government and public schools and included all social economic groups.

As per the ICMR funded study conducted on adolescents belonging to affluent families systolic blood pressure among children was 29.9% and diastolic blood pressure was 16.7% among children in the age group of 13-18 years of 5 South Delhi public schools. The study requires detailed data analysis before coming to a conclusion. Obesity is generally caused by excessive food intake, improper eating habits and lack of